

# Military Summary

Photo Credit: SSgt Danielle Sukhlall, courtesy of Defense Visual Information Distribution Service

## Strengths *Internal attributes that contribute to success*

### Natural Resources & Environment

- Proximity to Arctic and extensive open space
- Arctic environment and optimal conditions for testing cold weather readiness and equipment; Arctic Survival Schools

### Businesses, Organizations, & Government

- Alaska National Guard and the 168<sup>th</sup> Wing
- Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex creates training opportunities and supports integration of all Department of Defense (DoD) military installations
- Local, regional, state, and federal partnerships to support local military missions, installations, and service members and their families
- Proximity to rising powers and potential military threats in the Indo-Pacific region
- Growing aerospace capabilities and research (e.g., Poker Flat Research Range)

### Education & Workforce

- The military is a leading employer and economic driver
- Incoming military personnel offset outmigration losses
- Military spouses as a workforce
- Veteran-friendly community, with many military households choosing to stay after active-duty service
- Close partnerships with University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF)
- Purple Heart schools

## Opportunities *External forces that contribute to success*

### Natural Resources & Environment

- Increasing international interest in and use of the Arctic

### Businesses, Organizations, & Government

- Military Facility Zone designation by the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
- Fort Wainwright (FTW)'s Behavioral Health Epidemiological Consultation (BH EPICON) prepared in response to a series of suicides in the FTW community; the EPICON identified recommendations to improve quality of life for troops
- Incoming KC-135s
- Potential for KC-46 basing
- Reinstating the Army 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division as the "Arctic Angels" and establishing Alaska as its operational headquarters
- Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies (Anchorage)
- DoD's Arctic Strategies (see linked resources)
- Clear Air Force Station change to Clear Space Force Station

### Infrastructure

- Anticipated expansion of ground-based missile defense system missile field at Fort Greely
- FTW Combined Heat and Power Plant

## Weaknesses *Internal barriers to success*

### Natural Resources & Environment

- Air quality nonattainment
- Groundwater and soil contamination; Eielson Air Force Base (EAFB) designation as Superfund site
- Extreme weather and challenges for military households unfamiliar with extreme winter conditions

### Businesses, Organizations, & Government

- Behavioral health and wellness capacity to meet unique needs of military families

### Education & Workforce

- Military spouse licensing transferability

### Infrastructure

- High costs and complex logistics for moving materials and personnel to/from the region
- Potential shortage of affordable and quality housing
- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is unequipped to manage increase in flight volume at airport control towers as military base activity increases
- High costs of construction materials
- Lack of sufficient infrastructure (reliable and redundant power, broadband, etc.)
- Lack of a Class A landfill for disposing of hazardous materials

## Threats *External forces that could be barriers to success*

### Natural Resources & Environment

- Natural hazards such as wildfires and floods
- Climate change and lack of climate change readiness

### Funding & Markets

- Ongoing designation as an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) nonattainment area due to air quality and economic impacts of continued nonattainment

### Infrastructure

- Ongoing supply chain disruptions due to the pandemic and workforce shortages impacting new construction
- Cybersecurity threats

Where We Are	What measurements can we use to track progress? Where do we want to be in 5 years?	Targets
<b>9,583</b> (2022)	<b>Funded Manpower</b> – Total active-duty military personnel funded in the FNSB, including both Fort Wainwright (6,603) and Eielson Air Force Base (2,980); this does not include civilian, national guard, or reserve <i>The target assumes Fort Wainwright personnel numbers remain the same while Eielson Air Force Base’s personnel increase due to the F-35s and KC-135 missions</i>	<b>10,062</b> (2026)
<b>\$1.17 billion</b> (FY2020)	<b>Annual Military Congressional Allocation to FNSB</b> – This includes \$501.5 million in defense contract spending and \$669.3 million in personnel spending <i>Military spending represents 6.4% of Alaska’s GDP, with an average of \$4,577 spent per resident</i>	<b>Adequate investment to meet current/ projected mission need</b>

Sources: Fort Wainwright activity duty military estimate comes from the FNSB Community Research Quarterly as reported by the Fort Wainwright Plans, Analysis and Integration Office; this does not include civilian positions; Eielson Air Force active-duty military estimate comes from Eielson Housing Kneeboard as of March 11, 2022, 354th Mission Support Group

**Military Objectives** – Long term improvements and changes we want to see in five years or more.



1. Interior Alaska becomes a base of choice among enlisted service members, veterans, and their families.



2. Interior Alaska is the premier location for national and international Arctic defense and training.

**Strategies & Actions** – Activities we will implement over the next five years to accomplish goals & targets.

See Chapter 3 for a detailed action plan.

Icon Key: Capital Project Military-related

**1. Strengthen Arctic Defense and Training** – Invest in and strengthen Interior Alaska’s training and Arctic defense capabilities. (Objectives 1, 2)

- a. Construct hangar for KC-135s, considering the potential future need to accommodate KC-46s in the hangar design.
- b. Support basing of KC-46s.
- c. Reinstate the Army 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division as the “Arctic Angels” and establish Alaska as its operational headquarters.
- d. Finance and implement needed upgrades to the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex (JPARC).

See *Tourism for a convention and arts center recommendation*; a new facility could be used to host national and international Arctic and military-relevant gatherings and conferences.

**2. Sustain FNSB as a Location of Choice** – Ensure that active-duty personnel, veterans, and their families experience a high quality of life during their time in Interior Alaska. (Objective 1)

- a. Redevelop Birchwood homesite to regain land for FTW use.
- b. Construct a new FTW physical fitness facility.
- c. Demolish aged housing units.

- d. Continue military and community collaboration through efforts such as the FNSB CivMil and Tiger Team, and the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce (GFCC) Military Affairs Committee (MAC). 

*See Health Care for relevant health recommendations, including increased planning and cooperation among military and civilian health planners and providers in the region, recruiting mental health clinicians, family support services, and EPICON recommendations.*

*See Education & Workforce Development for recommendations to better connect military spouses with employment opportunities and remove barriers to employment, such as child care services and rideshares.*

*See Recreation, Retail, & Entertainment for recommendations that support quality of life initiatives for military households.*

*See Other Relevant Planning Efforts & Recommendations for recommendations to expand the availability of housing to meet the demands of incoming troops and their families.*

### **3. Protect the Environment** – Maintain and preserve healthy air, lands, and waters on and around military installations. *(Objectives 1, 2)*

- a. Develop long-term plan to meet FTW energy requirements.  
- b. Address Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) groundwater and soil contamination. 
- c. Develop and implement installation climate resilience and adaptation plans. 
- d. Address flood risks. 

*See Energy for relevant energy related recommendations, including energy innovation testing and installation of a microreactor on Eielson AFB.*

## **Other Relevant Resources**

- **Eielson Regional Growth Plan.** Fairbanks North Star Borough. 2018. [View here.](#)
- **UAF Department of Defense Support.** University of Alaska Fairbanks webpage. [View here.](#)
- **North to Opportunity: Aerospace Industry Summary Page.** The State of Alaska. [View here.](#)
- **Arctic Research Plan.** Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee, National Science & Technology Council. Dec. 2021. [View here.](#)
- **Department of Defense Climate Adaptation Plan.** Department of Defense, Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment). 2021. Department of Defense Draft Climate Adaptation Plan. Report Submitted to National Climate Task Force and Federal Chief Sustainability Officer. 1 September 2021. [View here.](#)
- **Strategic Approach for Arctic Homeland Security.** U.S. Department of Homeland Security. February 2021. [View here.](#)
- **Regaining Arctic Dominance.** U.S. Army. January 2021. [View here.](#)
- **A Strategic Blueprint for the Arctic.** Department of the Navy. January 2021. [View here.](#)
- **Arctic Strategy: Ensuring a stable Arctic through vigilance, power projection, cooperation, and preparation.** U.S. Air Force. July 2020. [View here.](#)
- **Maritime Strategy, Advantage at Sea: Prevailing with Integrated All-Domain Naval Power.** U.S. Sea Services (Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard). December 2020. [View here.](#)
- **Department of Defense Arctic Strategy.** Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. June 2019. [View here.](#)

# Military Action Plan

See Appendix A for a list of acronyms.

## Strategy #1: Strengthen Arctic Defense and Training – Invest in and strengthen Interior Alaska’s training and Arctic defense capabilities.

Capital Project?	Action	Lead	Support	Estimated Resources	Target Completion
✓	a. Construct hangar for KC-135s, considering the potential future need to accommodate KC-46s in the hangar design.	DoD, Congressional Delegation	FNSB, City of Fairbanks, City of North Pole, Interior Delegation, FEDC, GFCC	TBD	TBD
	b. Support basing of KC-46s.	DoD, Congressional Delegation	FNSB, City of Fairbanks, City of North Pole, Interior Delegation, FEDC, GFCC	TBD	TBD
	c. Reinstate the Army 11 <sup>th</sup> Airborne Division as the “Arctic Angels” and establish Alaska as its operational headquarters.	DoD, Congressional Delegation	FNSB, City of Fairbanks, City of North Pole, Interior Delegation, FEDC, GFCC	TBD	TBD
✓	d. Finance and implement needed upgrades to the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex (JPARC).	DoD, Congressional Delegation	FNSB, City of Fairbanks, City of North Pole, Interior Delegation, FEDC, GFCC	TBD	TBD

## Strategy #2: Sustain FNSB as a Location of Choice – Ensure that active-duty personnel, veterans, and their families experience a high quality of life during their time in Interior Alaska.

Capital Project?	Action	Lead	Support	Estimated Resources	Target Completion
✓	a. Redevelop Birchwood homesite to regain land for FTW use.	DoD, Congressional Delegation	FNSB, Interior Delegation, FEDC, GFCC	TBD	TBD
✓	b. Construct a new FTW physical fitness facility.	DoD, Congressional Delegation		TBD	TBD
✓	c. Demolish aged housing units.	DoD, Congressional Delegation	FNSB, City of Fairbanks, City of North Pole, Interior Delegation, FEDC, GFCC	TBD	TBD
	d. Continue military and community collaboration through efforts such as the FNSB CivMil and Tiger Team, and the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce (GFCC) Military Affairs Committee (MAC).	FNSB	DoD, Congressional Delegation, FEDC, GFCC, City of Fairbanks, City of North Pole, UAF, Explore Fairbanks	TBD	TBD

### Strategy #3: Protect the Environment – Maintain and preserve healthy air, lands, and waters on and around military installations.

Capital Project?	Action	Lead	Support	Estimated Resources	Target Completion
✓	<b>a.</b> Develop long-term plan to meet FTW energy requirements.	DoD, Congressional Delegation	FNSB, Utilities, FEDC	TBD	TBD
	<b>b.</b> Address Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) groundwater and soil contamination.	DoD, Congressional Delegation	DEC, FNSB	TBD	TBD
	<b>c.</b> Improve climate change readiness.	DoD, Congressional Delegation	FEMA, FNSB, Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management	TBD	TBD
	<b>d.</b> Address flood risks.	DoD, Congressional Delegation	FNSB	TBD	TBD